



Conservation with people

Virtually all ecosystems in the Philippines are subject to major human impacts, Rasa Island is no exception.



Assessment of claims

People try to extract natural resources, they even try to carve out a living by staying on the island. Main activities are harvesting of copra (meat of coconut), collection of sea cucumbers, shells, wild honey, ornamental plants, eggs of megapode birds, and cutting of mangroves for fish traps (baclad).

Conservation under these circumstances only works, if there is a close cooperation with the local communities and decision makers. The program provides alternative livelihood for the people having claims in Rasa. The strategy is to divert income generating activities away from areas critical for conservation. Aside from involving former poachers in the conservation efforts as wildlife wardens, other stakeholders were assisted to secure a binding document for their cultivated areas in the island. At the same time with this measure the program can check expansion of logged areas and squatting by outsiders.

The efforts of the program are currently being expanded to other areas, where viable populations of the cockatoo were found, like Dumaran Island or Iwahig Penal Colony, Palawan.



How can you help

Only about 1,000 birds are left in the wild. Every single individual counts for the survival of the species.

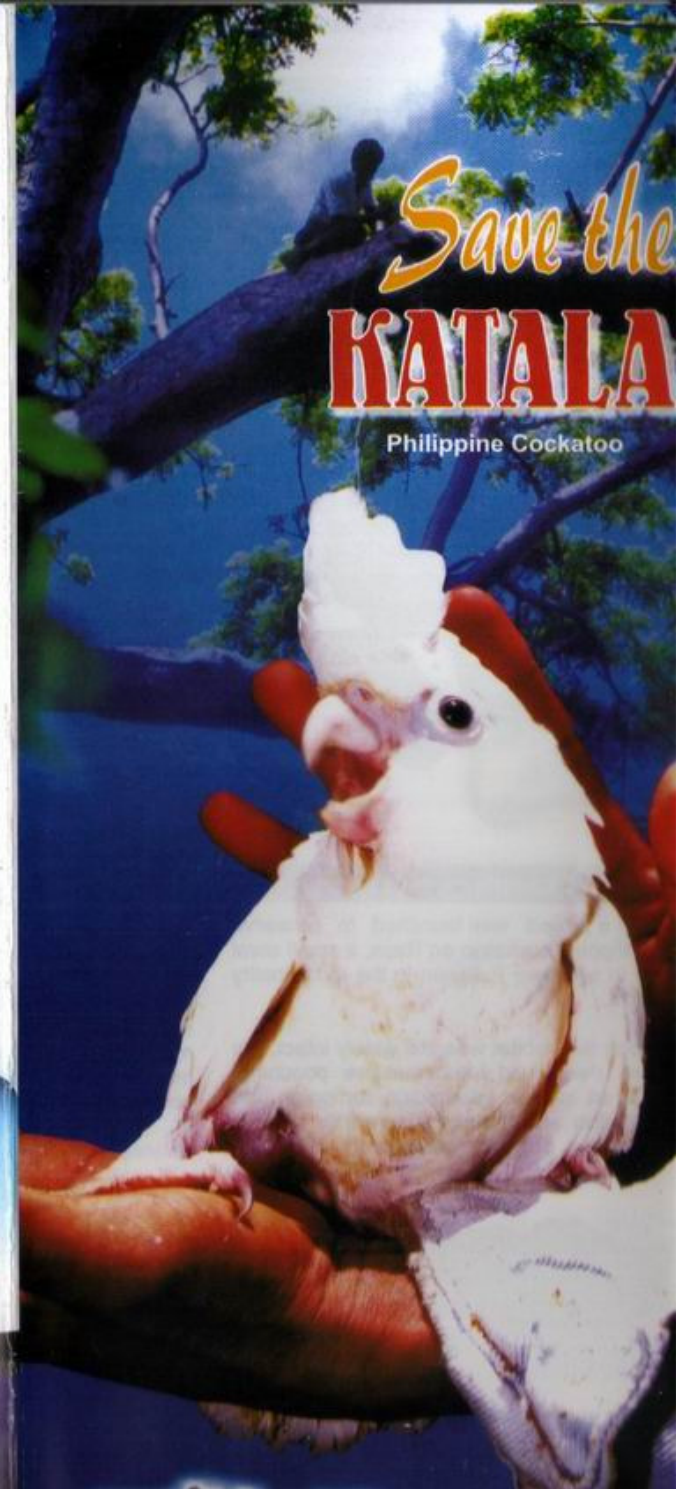
- Do not buy cockatoos! You are not saving them by buying! You only would create a demand for more poaching! This is also true for other wildlife. Just say **NO** if somebody offers!
- If you observe cockatoos being traded, please report to DENR or to our program!
- Support the Philippine Cockatoo Conservation Program through donations to the Katala Foundation, Inc.

THE COCKATOO CAN LIVE IN HARMONY WITH PEOPLE, IF IT IS ALLOWED TO BREED AND FEED WITHOUT BEING PERSECUTED.



CONTACTS:

KATALA FOUNDATION
 P.O. Box 390
 Puerto Princesa City 5300
 Palawan Philippines
 Telefax: +63 48 434 7693
 Email: idlacerna@yahoo.com
 Website: www.philippinecockatoo.org





Philippine cockatoo
(*Cacatua haematurus pygia*)

The Philippine cockatoo is on the brink of extinction. There are less Philippine cockatoos surviving in the wild than for example Bengal Tigers, African elephants or Humpback whales. The Katala, as it is called in Tagalog, is possibly the most endangered species of the cockatoo family and can be found only in the Philippines. It was abundant all over the nation, except the northern part of Luzon until about 45 years ago.

The collapse of the population is mainly due to

- Poaching, selling and buying of Katalas as pet
- Destruction of their lowland forest habitats, particularly nesting and food-providing trees
- Persecution as pest species, especially in rice field

The Katala Foundation recently estimated that only about 1,000 individuals are left in the wild. On many large islands like Luzon, Panay, Cebu and Leyte it may have disappeared completely. Presently, the best remaining populations can be found on the island of Palawan.

Recent cockatoo records in Palawan →



traditional roosting site of the birds on Rasa. Today a minimum of eighty birds can be found on

Handfeeding



Warden preparing for a climb



The Rasa Example

In 1998 a project was launched to conserve the Philippine cockatoo on Rasa, a small coral island in southern Palawan in the municipality of Narra.

Although the habitat was still widely intact, the species decreased due to massive poaching. Due to an intense information campaign and consultation with all stakeholders of the island a conservation program was launched. The core

project is a wardens scheme to guard the cockatoos, particularly during the breeding season.

Former poachers were recruited as wardens, because of their profound knowledge of the species. Despite reservations on the scheme from many sides, the population of the cockatoo was doubled in four years of project implementation, as revealed by monthly counts on

Not only the cockatoo

In spite of the cockatoo being the main target for conservation, the Katala Foundation does not focus on this species alone. The approach of the program is to conserve all ecosystems relevant for the cockatoo, together with many other species occurring there. Some of the nesting and food-providing trees of the Katala themselves are on the "Red List" of globally threatened species like "Ipli" *Intsia bijuga* or "Apitong" *Dipterocarpus grandiflorus*.

Animal species on the list which share the same habitat are for example Chinese egret, Grey imperial pigeon, Blue-headed racquet-tail, Mantanani scops owl. The threatened Dugong, Green and Hawksbill turtle are found in the marine portions of Rasa. In other areas cockatoos occur together with the endemic and threatened Palawan hornbill and Palawan peacock pheasant.



Mantanani scops owl

